HARVEST OF THE MONTH PRESENTS ...



# HARVEST HEROES!



OCT 2007

BOTH CLASSES OF PEARS, THE EUROPEANS AND THE ASIANS...

KEEP BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS STEADY WITH LOTS OF FIBER IN THE EQUATION!

Teaturing this month's heroes...

THE HOME HAL PHENOME NAL PELS:



HOW DO PEARS SHOOT DOWN CONSTIPATION?

This material was created and approved as an extension to the Harvest of the Month tool kit developed by the Network For a Healthy California.



BECOME A PRO AT PICKING A PHENOMENAL PEAR!!!

LEARN MORE INSIDE!





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FUNDING OF THIS PROGRAM REQUIRES BOTH TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION ... THANK YOU!!!









### HOW WE GREW TO BE THE HEROES WE ARE...



We're honored to be recognized as this month's heroes, Worried about diseases? There's no reason to Fear-o! We're daring, yet tasty... abundant, yet unique, We're perfect right now because we're at our peak!

There are 2 main types of pears, European and Asian, Both with tons of Fiber; plus phytochemicals for any disease invasion... Both picked from trees in the fall, both taste so juicy and sweet when ripe, But European and Asian pears are both quite different depending on the type...

European pears are tender when ready to eat, and shaped like a teardrop, but ripening happens OFF the tree, after the picking of the crop...
Asian pears think they're apples, round in shape, so crispy and so firm,
These guys ripen ON the tree, then picked when they've finished their term...

There are 5 main types of European pears that are California-grown, Boscs have giraffe-like necks, bad guys hate to be with them alone...
Comice and Seckel pears might be small, but most say they are the most sweet, Red Anjou, she's unique, for she's shaped like an egg and red like a beet!

The last California-grown Euro is the "Mr. Popular" Bartlett pear, Changing colors as they ripen from green to yellow, is a quality so rare... Asian pears already got a shout out, but something to add to this poem's Flow, Pid you know some say they taste like a mix between a watermelon and a potato?

Now how do you make sure you pick out a phenomenal European pear at the market? If it is mushy with dents and bruises, put that one back and park it... Since we ripen off the tree, it's best to find one that's still hard, Once home, we could use your help to ripen, as you will play an important part...

Before we ripen you must decide when you want to enjoy us, later, or real soon?
If for later, put us in the fridge now, and leave us there until you want ripening to resume...
When ready for ripening to begin, place us outside the fridge in a paper bag,
Check our necks for ripeness, and when they yield to pressure, you can enjoy us at last!

Enjoy us with our skin, that's where most of the fiber and phytochemicals are found, Chopped up and put in cereal or a parfait for the sweetest breakfast around! Feeling daring? How about a PPB&J... a Pear, Peanut Butter and Jelly? Add some diced pears to your salad... so healthy for your belly!

We're honored to be recognized as this month's heroes, Worried about diseases? there's no reason to fear-o! We're daring, yet tasty... abundant, yet unique, We're perfect right now because we're at our peak!

-Ben Bratcher, 2007









## TOP SECRET INFO.

#### PEAR POWERS



To be healthy, a variety of fruits and vegetables are necessary! Some ways pears help you be healthy are:

## FIBER!

Fiber helps keep energy levels steady; lends a mighty hand to your intestines to prevent constipation; and may also lower blood cholesterol levels.

## PHYTOCHEMICALS!

Pronounced "Fie-toe-KEM-ih-kuhls," these powerful plant chemicals may strengthen your body against diseases like cancer and heart disease!

#### HOW TO GET PEAR POWERS



- Snack on raw pears with the skin as this is where most of the fiber and phytochemicals are Found!
- Ever tried a "PPB\$J"? A Pear, Peanut Butter \$ Jelly sandwich? Just add fresh pear slices to your PB\$J!
- Sprinkle chopped pears on hot or cold cereal.
- Start off your day with a pear parfait (Fresh diced pear, a Favorite whole grain cereal/granola, and low-fat yogurt)!
- Pears and salad are an excellent combo! Two super heroes in one meal, whoa! Add some pears, blue cheese, walnuts, and baked /grilled chicken to a packaged salad blend and you're set!

### When pears are "In season"

While Bartlett pear season starts in the summer (August), the Fall and winter are the peak seasons for the other California pear varieties (although you can find at least one variety available at any point in the year thanks to modern storage). Puring the growing season, pear orchards need the ideal warm days and cool nights that are found in northern California. See "THE PEAR FAMILY TREE" page for the specific seasons of each California variety.



#### DID YOU ALSO KNOW



- Pears are the least allergenic of all the fruits, which means most people are not allergic to pears.
- All pears (except for Asian pears) do not ripen properly on the tree so growers pick them when mature, but green. They are meant to ripen after they are picked, not while on the tree! See the "PICK A PHENOMENAL PEAR" page to learn how you can ripen these guys at home!
- The wood of pear trees is one of the preferred materials in the manufacture of high quality woodwind instruments.
- Like apple seeds, pear seeds contain "cyanogenic glycosides," which can actually be toxic if eaten in really large quantities.
- Mr. Williams named what we know as Bartletts, after himself. When early Americans brought Williams pears to the American colonies, nurseryman Enoch Bartlett "discovered " the pear variety and, unaware of the pear's true name, distributed it as a "Bartlett." It is still known as the Williams pear around the world.







# ACTIVITY OVERVIEW: 5-8

### ACTIVITY CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARDS

	• Reading Comprehension 2.3 Piscern main ideas and concepts presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas; 2.4 Praw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.
KWL Chart:	Reading Comprehension 2.4 Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.
"What Po You Know About Pears?"	• Reading Comprehension 2.1 Understand and analyze the differences in structure and purpose between various categories of informational materials (e.g., textbooks, newspapers, instructional manuals, signs); 2.2 Locate information by using a variety of consumer, workplace, and public documents.
	• Reading Comprehension 2.3 Find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope, or organization of ideas.
	• Reading Comprehension 2.5 Pistinguish the main idea and supporting details in expository text.
Tree Map & Pouble	• Reading Comprehension 2.2 Analyze text that uses the compare-and-contrast organizational pattern; 2.3 Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics; 2.4 Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.
Bubble Map®: The Pear Family Tree	<ul> <li>Reading Comprehension 2.1 Understand and analyze the differences in structure and purpose between various categories of informational materials (e.g., textbooks, newspapers, instructional manuals, signs).</li> <li>Writing Applications 1.2 Support all statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, facts and statistics, and specific examples.</li> </ul>
	Reading Comprehension 2.3 Find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope, or organization of ideas.
	<ul> <li>Reading Comprehension 2.1 Understand how text Features (e.g., Format, graphics, sequence, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps) make information accessible and usable; 2.2 Analyze text that is organized in sequential or chronological order.</li> </ul>
"Pick a Phenomenal	<ul> <li>Reading Comprehension 2.3 Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics. 2.4 Clarify an under- standing of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.</li> </ul>
Pear" (reading com- prehension & Flow Map® activities)	<ul> <li>Reading Comprehension 2.1 Understand and analyze the differences in structure and purpose between various categories of informational materials (e.g., textbooks, newspapers, instructional manuals, signs).</li> <li>Writing Strategies 1.3 Use strategies of note taking, outlining, and summarizing to impose structure on composition drafts.</li> </ul>
	Reading Comprehension 2.4 Compare the original text to a summary to determine whether the summary accurately captures the main ideas, includes critical details, and conveys the underlying meaning.







# ACTIVITY OVERVIEW: 5-8

### ACTIVITY CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARDS

What Makes Us Pears?	<ul> <li>Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Pevelopment 1.5 Understand and explain the Figurative and metaphorical use of words in context.</li> <li>Reading Comprehension 2.5 Pistinguish Facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text.</li> </ul>
	Reading Comprehension 2.3 Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.
	• Reading Comprehension 2.1 Understand how text Features (e.g., Format, graphics, sequence, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps) make information accessible and usable. Pistinguish Facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text.
Circle Map®	<ul> <li>Reading Comprehension 2.3 Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying</li> <li>their relationships to other sources and related topics. 2.4 Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Writing Applications 1.2 Support all statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, Facts and statistics, and specific examples.</li> </ul>
	• Reading Comprehension 2.3 Find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope, or organization of ideas.
	• Reading Comprehension Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual information or prior knowledge.
	6 • Writing Applications 2.1(b) Use concrete and sensory language.
Use Your Senses	<ul> <li>Writing Applications 1.2 Support all statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, Facts and statistics, and specific examples.</li> </ul>
	Writing Applications 2.1 (a) Relate a clear, coherent incident, event, or situation by using well-chosen details.











## THE PEAR FAMILY TREE

The pear has about 3,000 varieties (members) in their family tree, and can be divided into 2 main groups: European and Asian. European pears have a "teardrop" shape with a tender, buttery-textured flesh, and ripen after being picked from the tree. Asian pears are actually more like apples than pears: they are round in shape; hard and crisp when ripe; and ripen on the tree, not off. All the California-grown pears below are European pears, except, well, the Asian pear of course!

#### BARTLETT PEARS

When you say "pear," most people think of a Bartlett.
Representing 75% of US pear production, this bell—shaped pear is the most popular variety in the US. These are the only pears whose skin dramatically changes colors as they ripen, morphing from a bright green to a golden yellow in a matter of days. Bartletts are at their peak from August to October.



The Red Anjou, pronounced "On-ju" have a deep, rich, maroon color and "egg-shaped" appearance sets this variety apart. Like other European pears, Anjous are sweet and juicy when ripe. They

are at their peak from September to December.

#### BOSC PEARS

Pronounced "Bahsk," these pears are easily identified by their long neck and stem, and cinnamon/earthy brown colored skin. They do not change color as they ripen, but shrivel and soften at

the stem instead; they are quite aromatic, and juicysweet when ripe. Boscs are at their peak season from October to February.

#### SECKEL PEARS

Pronounced "Sek-uhl," these tiny pears are the smallest commercially-grown variety, and compete with Comice pears For being the sweetest, as these chubby,

dwarf-like Fruits are sometimes called "sugar pears."
Usually green in color, they Frequently exhibit a dark
maroon blush that sometimes covers the entire surface.
Seckels are at their peak From September to Pecember.

#### Comice pears

Pronounced "Co-meece,"
these pears are chubby, with a
short neck. Pon't let their
stocky build or their dull, green,
crimson-Flecked skin Fool you...

Comice have a reputation for being the sweetest and most Flavorful, and have earned special recognition as the "Christmas Pear," as they are often the stars in holiday gift baskets. Comice are at their peak from September to February.

#### ASIAN PEARS

Like a cat who barks, Asian pears are a "confused" Fruit: they behave more like an apple than a pear! Unlike the European pears, they ripen ON the tree; they are firm

and crunchy; and they are round, not teardrop shaped. Some people say this golden-colored Fruit with cream "Freckles" tastes like a "watermelon crossed with a potato;" is sugary; crisp; and a bit grainy in texture... what do you think? Asian pears are in season From July to October.



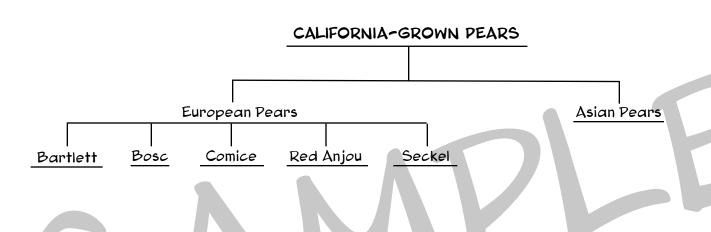
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## TREE MAP®: THE PEAR FAMILY TREE.

The formation of a Tree Map® based on the "THE PEAR FAMILY TREE" exercise...





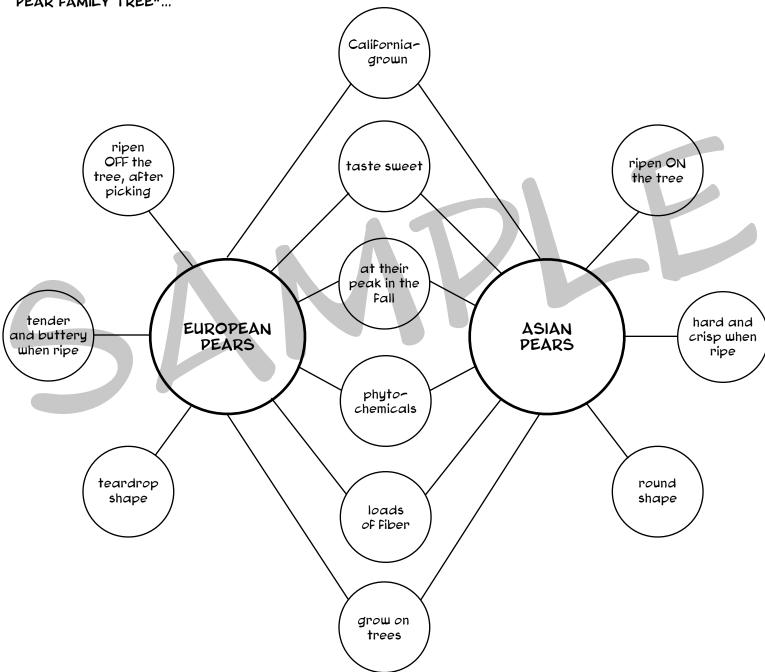




## DOUBLE BUBBLE MAP®: THE PEAR FAMILY TREE.

Following is an example of a Pouble Bubble Map® comparing and contrasting European and Asian pears based on the "THE PEAR FAMILY TREE" exercise.

In another utilization of this activity, students can compare and contrast 2 pears of their choice from "THE PEAR FAMILY TREE"...







THE NOMENAL PLETIKS!

## PICK A PHENOMENAL PEAR.

#### 1. PICK IT.

Worms make you squirm? How do you make sure that pear you're buying is a fresh one, and hopefully worm-free?!! Here's how to make sure you pick a PHENOMENAL one.

#### BUY THEM UNRIPE ...

Pears are a unique fruit that ripen best off the tree (pears that ripen on the tree will be mealy and gritty). So, unless you're ready to eat the pear immediately after buying it, you probably won't want to buy a really soft one from the store... allow ripening to take place at home. See the "CHECK THE NECK" section at right to learn how to ripen your pears.

LOOK FOR THESE QUALITIES... When picking pears from the store, it's okay if they are hard. Stay away from pears that are really soft... these pears are extra fragile and will attract unwanted bruises and blemishes (if they aren't already there).

#### 2. RIPEN IT.

Once you have picked out your PHENOMENAL pear, and it's still hard, don't worry because it's easy to get them ripe and juicy. First, you must decide when you want your pear... later or now?!!

EH, I CAN WAIT TO ENJOY IT... Store your pears in the refrigerator until you are ready to ripen them as the cold air will slow the ripening process.

#### I WANT IT FAST!

To speed ripening, place the pears outside the fridge in a paper bag (never store pears in sealed plastic bags as the lack of oxygen will cause the fruit to brown from the inside... yuk!). Then, you can check the neck...

CHECK THE NECK FOR RIPENESS. To do this, apply gentle pressure to the neck of the pear (where the stem is) with your thumb. As soon as it yields to mild pressure at the neck, your PHENOMENAL pear is ready to eat!

## After reading the passages above, fill in the TRUE or FALSE circle next to each question:

- To quicken the ripening process, place the pears in sealed plastic bags.
- $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}$   $\widehat{\mathbb{F}}$  In this passage, the word "yield" means "to give in."
- Based on the passage, "Check the Neck" means to draw a check mark on the neck of the pear, and wait a few days until it disappears... you will then have a perfectly ripe pear!
- $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}$   $\widehat{\mathbb{F}}$  The best and most natural way for pears to ripen is on the tree.
- $ar{\mathbb{T}}$   $\dot{\mathbb{F}}$  Really soft pears with dents, mushy parts and blemishes likely won't taste best.
- $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}$  Picking a hard pear at the store will never ripen into a sweet and juicy pear at home.





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CHECK THE NECK FOR RIPENESS. To do this, apply gentle pressure to the neck of the pear (where the stem is) with your thumb. As soon as it yields to mild pressure at the neck, your PHENOMENAL pear is ready to eat!

DID YOU KNOW

BARTLETTS ARE THE ONLY PEARS

TO CHANGE COLORS AS THEY

RIPEN?

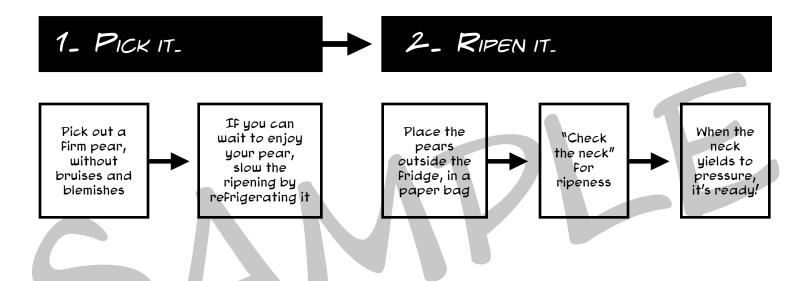
## After reading the passages above, fill in the TRUE or FALSE circle next to each question:

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- (T) F The best and most natural way for pears to ripen is on the tree.
- (T) F Really soft pears with dents, mushy parts and blemishes likely won't taste best.
- $\widehat{\mathbb{T}}$  ( $\widehat{\mathbb{F}}$ ) Picking a hard pear at the store will never ripen into a sweet and juicy pear at home.





Possible sequencing idea for the formation of a Flow Map® about picking and ripening a pear (based on the "PICK A PHENOMENAL PEAR" exercise)...









## WHAT MAKES US PEARS?

If we told you we were carrots, would you believe us? Well, why not? We want to know the truth... are you trying to say we're not as good looking as they are? Is that it?!!

While we do fight for the same cause, the truth is, we are obviously different than them. Why? Why not just call us ?The Courageous Carrots?? (Besides of course the fact that we're so darn good looking...)

#### CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER(S):

- 1. A pear's skin is: as green as a as purple as red as as yellow as brown grasshopper as an alien a rose as the sun as dirt
- 2. A pear's texture is:

  as soft as a as crispy as as juicy as a peach a cucumber watermelon
- 3. A pear grows: on a vine like underground on a tree like on a bush like grapes like a turnip an apple blueberries
- 4. A pear's shape is: like a like a like the teardrop box earth
- 5. A pear's taste is: sweet like sour like a salty like a candy lemon potato chip







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#### CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER(S):

1. A pear's skin is: (as green as a grasshopper)

as purple as an alien as red as a rose as yellow as the sun as brown as dirt

[Bartletts are green, then yellow; Red Anjous are red; and Boscs are brown]

2. A pear's texture is:

as soft as a

as crispy as a cucumber

as juicy as a watermelon

[European pears are softer; Asian pears are crispier; and both are juicy!]

3. A pear grows:

on a vine like grapes underground like a turnip on a tree like an apple

on a bush like blueberries

4. A pear's shape is:

like a teardrop

like a box like the

[European pears are teardrop shaped; Asian pears are round]

5. A pear's taste is:

sweet like candy sour like a lemon salty like a potato chip

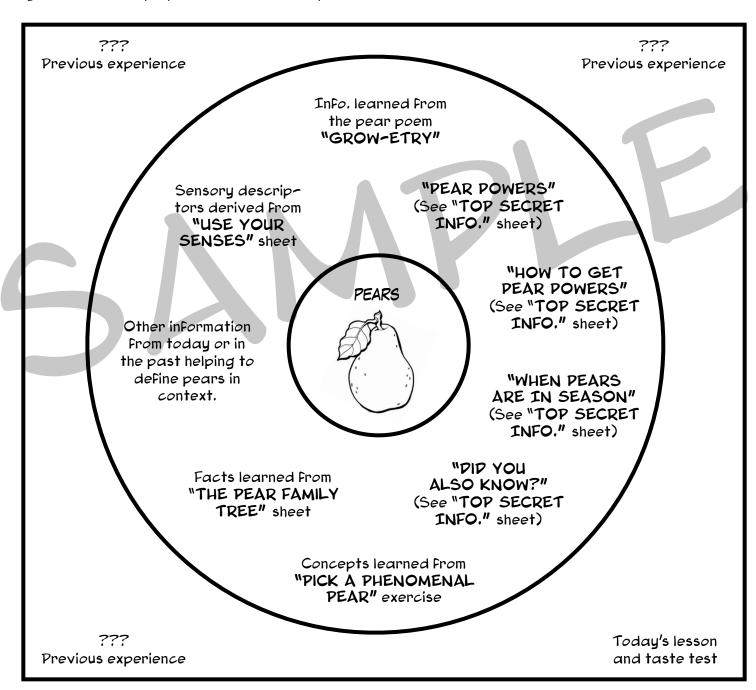






## CIRCLE MAP®

Possible ideas to include in the formation of a Circle Map® about pears, depending of course on when the activity is done. This sample provided is a Circle Map® done after the lesson and taste test...









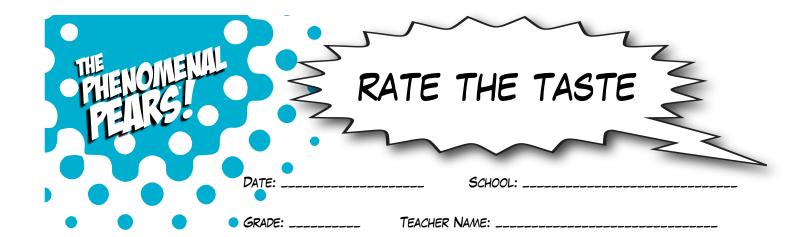


•	•	PEAR #1	PEAR #2	PEAR #3	PEAR #4
	COLOR				
	SIZE				
	SHAPE				
	OTHER				
NIB	FEEL OF SKIN				
	TEXTURE OF FLESH				
	TASTE				
(s)	SMELL				

WRITE	ONE	PERSUASIVE	E ADVERTISING	SLOGAN	FOR EACH	VARIETY OF	THE	PHENOMENAL	PEARS ?	OU JUST	TASTED:

Monteles,





#### CIRCLE ONE:

VERY GOOD	OK	NOT GOOD

#### CHECK ONE:

WOULD YOU EAT A PEAR AGAIN?	
☐ YES	
□ No	

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_

## 

#### CIRCLE ONE:

VERY GOOD	OK	NOT GOOD

#### CHECK ONE:

WOULD YOU EAT A PEAR AGAIN?	
☐ YES	
□ No	

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

THE	MENAL	
	OMENAL	
173	11/9:0	
114		

Pate: \_\_

## EVALUATION

# Students:

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

•					
1.	Which of the Tool Kit materials/activities were most useful? (Mark all that apply.):				
	☐ Pouble Bubble Map® ☐ Pick a Phenomenal Pear ☐ Flow Map® [	☐ What Makes Us Pears?			
	☐ Circle Map® ☐ Taste Test ☐ Use Your Senses				
	Comments:				
2.	Please note how much time was spent on this lesson:	PON'T FORGET!			
3.	Pid you find the Kit easy to use? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Funding of this program requires			
	Why or why not?	2 types of documentation:			
Ч.	Po the Activities get easily integrated into your existing curriculum?  ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ If not, how would you suggest they be modified?	1. EVALUATION Submit this page to Nutrition Services, Attn: Liz Vera as soon as possible. Call x7966 with questions.			
5.	Are the nutrition concepts clear? Which ones do you emphasize?	2. TIME LOG Submit every month. The next one is due NOVEMBER 1st.			
		THANK YOU!			
6.	What would make this Kit more complete for you to teach nutrition educ	ation more effectively?			
6.	What changes in your classroom have you made/will you make after pa	rticipating in this month's Harvest?			
7.	What changes, if any, do you notice in your students' outlooks in regard	ls to nutrition?			



